

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 11-16 and 18 remain pending in this application. Claims 1-10 and 17 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new claims have been added.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and safe receipt of the priority document.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-6, 10 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Zhang (U.S. Patent No. 5,814,529) in view of Yamaji et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,721,601). Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Zhang in view of Yamaji et al as applied to claims 1-6, 10 and 17, and further in view of Jung et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,317,173). Claims 8 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Zhang in view of Yamaji et al as applied to claims 1-6, 10 and 17, and further in view of Hara et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,046,790). These rejections are traversed as follows.

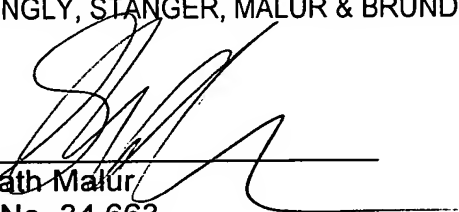
The rejection of claims 1-10 and 17 has been rendered moot by the cancellation of these claims without prejudice or disclaimer in order to expedite the issuance of subject matter indicated as being allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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